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Caistor Rural District Council
Lindsey, Lincolnshire

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

R. J. R. MECREDY, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

and of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

AND SURVEYOR

V. G. HUDSON, M.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A., M.A.R.D.S.

for the Year

1959



**COMMITTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH,
PLANNING, HOUSING AND WATER :**

(a) Public Health, Water and Planning Committee.

Chairman : Councillor J. W. COUSINS

Vice-Chairman : Councillor A. B. NAYLOR, J.P.

(b) Housing.

Chairman : Councillor H. KEY

Vice-Chairman : Councillor G. WHITE

c) General Purposes Committee.

Chairman : Councillor J. NICKERSON J.P.

(d) Market Rasen U.D. Joint Water Supply Committee.

Councillors J. W. COUSINS

H. KEY

W. C. HALL, J.P.

W. B. LEANING

A. B. NAYLOR, J.P.

Caistor R.D.

Councillor H. V. BECKETT, Market Rasen U.D.

(e) Clerk of the Council.

C. G. BARR, M.B.E.

(f) Deputy Clerk.

J. R. BRAY

STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health :

R. J. R. MECREDY, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Telephone : Caistor 322

Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor :

V. G. HUDSON, M.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A., M.A.R.D.S.

Caistor 322

Additional Public Health Inspector and Assistant Surveyor :

H. TODD, M.P.H.I.A.

R. J. LOWIS, M.P.H.I.A. (from 22/6/59)

Caistor 322

Water Manager :

H. DIXON

Caistor 323 (now Caistor 263)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the CAISTOR RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this my final report as Medical Officer of Health, I find I have little new to comment upon. I have again emphasized the slow drift of population from the Rural District.

There continues to be a surplus of births over deaths, amounting to 90 in the current year. This should over the years have led to an increasing population. A recrudescence of measles, in a few parishes, was chiefly responsible for the number of notifications of diseases being slightly above the average for the last 16 years. In general, however, it can be said that the health of the Rural District remained fairly good. No serious epidemics occurred during the year. The standard of housing has continued to improve. The investigation still proceeding into the condition of sub-standard houses in certain parishes has already led to the conclusion that many more premises need to be condemned as unfit for human habitation.

I would wish again to thank Mr. J. W. Cousins, Chairman of the Public Health Committee, for his interest and helpful criticism of my work. I would like to include the members of the Public Health Committee in these farewell comments.

Mr. V. G. Hudson, your Chief Public Health Inspector, was again my right hand man and the instigator of many helpful suggestions. To him and Mr. H. Todd and the rest of the staff of the Public Health Department, I offer my thanks for their assistance at all times.

Mr. C. G. Barr—as Clerk of the Council—and his staff have always been most co-operative.

To you, Sir, as Chairman of the Rural District Council, I would express my thanks for the interest you have taken in our work in the Public Health Department.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

R. J. R. MECREDY,
Medical Officer of Health.
Caistor Rural District Council.

GENERAL COMMENTS

In the 40 years which have passed since I was first attracted to the study of Preventive Medicine there have been many changes both in its practice and in the assessment of its future scope. I have alluded to some of these advances in earlier reports. However, I wish to draw attention to certain habits and fashions which are known to produce certain diseases and deformities of the body.

The indiscriminate eating of sweets, sugary foods and cakes and biscuits between meals undoubtedly is one of the basic causes of the great increase in dental caries. Fundamentally this leads to relative loss of appetite for meals. It is probably directly responsible for the "middle age spread" which tends to appear in so many young people when they give up active exercise and games and relapse into a sedentary life. It is fortunate that in a Rural District this criticism is not so applicable as the worker on the land still does his daily dozen and cannot be said to lack necessary exercise.

The practise of following a balanced dietetic regime is only carried out by very few people. I have no doubt of its value from my own personal experiences in the last 40 years.

The slow attack on the lungs by polluted air will probably be an ever-increasing factor in causing disease. This will be aggravated in many cases by the habit of smoking—especially of cigarettes. Cancer of the lungs and chronic bronchitis are two of the final results of this combination. The acquisitive society, in which we live, tends to increase the demand for more luxuries which then become necessities. The motor car or motor cycle is one example of these. Ultimately it implies that walking will no longer be necessary or desirable in the ever present desire to "save" time. What to do with the time "saved" may often be at the root of the many mental disorders which harass civilised man.

Physical deformities have been produced in the past by the vagaries and insanities of fashion. The Chinese female children had their feet bound when infants. Certain African tribes still alter the shape of their infants skulls by tight binding. An analogy to this to-day lies in the extraordinary type of shoe which the majority of women and girls think it correct to wear. The narrow pointed shoe with its restricted space for the toes, and now with the stiletto heel added, is probably one of the best methods devised for keeping our orthopaedic specialists fully occupied for life.

It is the best device yet developed to cause deformity of the foot. I have in earlier reports pointed out that the number of girls with deformities of the great toes increases very rapidly from the infant classes until the leavers age of 15 years. Very few adolescent girls—or to a lesser extent boys—can be said to have feet free from any defects.

Fashion and health are frequently diametrically opposed to each other. The provision of more playing fields and gymnasiums may help to control the evils of fashion. The mental outlook of our adolescents must also be considered and stimulated by a more dynamic approach to the ideal of physical fitness so that more use may be made of the facilities for keeping the body fit. The old latin proverb of "The healthy mind in the healthy body" can still be quoted. There is no doubt too that Medical Practitioners of every kind could do far more to inculcate this ideal.

In the older age groups it would appear that the only logical course to follow would be an annual medical check up. This is relatively common in the U.S.A. and in the U.S.S.R. It can lead to the early detection and treatment of diseases. It can help in a prevention of their recurrence. I have seen this system at work in the U.S.A. many years ago (1914) and was impressed then by its great value to the people

involved. This does not, of course, fall within the normal province of the Medical Officer of Health except in so far as he is interested in reducing the ravages of preventable diseases in the community in which he lives.

The housing, care and oversight of the aged and infirm has, of recent years, fallen to an increasing extent on his shoulders. The provision of a healthy environment from infancy to old age is one of his main duties. I conceive this as fundamentally a matter of life long education of the community on the subject of mental and physical fitness.

One might term it indeed a "life sentence".

SECTION A—Vital and General Statistics.

A slight rise in the estimated population for the Rural District has been recorded by the Registrar General. This may be due to a further influx of non-civilian personnel to the three R.A.F. Stations. There is an excess of 90 in births over deaths. As there has been this excess over a long period of years without any statistical increase in the population at each census it is obvious that there must be a continuing drift of people from the rural area. As pointed out in my report for 1958 there has been a steady decrease in the population since 1901 as recorded in each census since then.

A very considerable number of employed males work in urban areas outside the district. It is, therefore, probable that the number of people employed in agricultural work is declining. The increasing mechanisation of the industry is undoubtedly one of the causes of this gradual change in occupation.

The only major industrial undertaking is ironstone mining which appears to be augmenting its labour forces.

The birth-rate continues to be higher than that of England and Wales.

Deaths recorded as being due to old age are conspicuous by their absence from the mortality returns. It seems that deaths from many forms of disease will remain the terminal fate of most of our population for many generations to come. In view of this it would seem that the scope of the Medical Officer of Health has an unlimited future.

Population 1901	....	13,288
Population 1911	....	13,146
Population 1921	....	12,876
Population 1931	....	12,659
Population 1951 (civilian)	....	12,194
Total 1951	....	14,340
Estimated 1958	....	14,330
Estimated 1959	....	14,420
Habitable houses 1959	....
Premises	....	4,366
Caravans (licensed)	....	60

The rateable value of the district on the 1st, April, 1959, was £118,023 and the product of a penny rate was £440,-15-5d. for the year ending 31st March, 1959.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1959

		For England and Wales
Total live births	252	—
Total illegitimate live births	9	—
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1959 (corrected)	20.1	16.5
Total deaths	162	—
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population (corrected)	11.0	11.6
Deaths of infants under one year of age	4	—
Stillbirths	11	—
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	3	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age	3	—
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age	15.9 per 1,000	22.2
Deaths of illegitimate infants	Nil	—
Deaths from all malignant Neoplasms	26	—
Deaths from diseases of the heart and circulatory system	92	—
Deaths from Measles	Nil	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil	—
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	Nil	—
Deaths from Acute Poliomyelitis	Nil	—

Causes of Death in Caistor Rural District, 1959

		Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	....	1	—
2. Tuberculosis, other forms	....	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	....	—	—
4. Diphtheria	....	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	....	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	....	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	....	—	—
8. Measles	....	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	....	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasms, stomach	....	2	2
11. Malignant Neoplasms, lung, bronchus	....	3	1
12. Malignant Neoplasms, breast	....	—	2
13. Malignant Neoplasms, uterus	....	—	2
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	....	7	7
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	....	—	—
16. Diabetes	....	1	3
17. Vascular Lesions of nervous system	....	8	13
18. Coronary disease, Angina	....	18	12
19. Hypertension with heart disease	....	4	—
20. Other heart disease	....	11	19
21. Other circulatory disease	....	2	5
22. Influenza	....	1	3
23. Pneumonia	....	1	4
24. Bronchitis	....	3	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	....	—	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	....	—	1
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	....	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	....	—	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	....	1	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	....	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	....	1	—

32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	5
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	1
34. All other accidents	5	1
35. Suicide	1	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—
	—	—
	74	88 162

General Provisions of Health Services in the Area.

1. (a) MENTAL ILLNESS.

Treatment is arranged in conjunction with the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board. Supervision and aftercare is carried out by specially trained staff employed by the Lindsey County Council.

1. (b) MENTAL DEFECTIVES.

The County Council, through the Regional Hospital Board, makes arrangements for the institutional care of mental defectives.

The County Council is responsible for the care and supervision of mental defectives in their homes.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, St. Anne's Road, Lincoln and at Grimsby and District Hospital. Diphtheria Anti-toxin Anti-typhoid serum, and Scarlet Fever (streptococcus) Anti-toxin are supplied from the above laboratories.

3. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The National Fire Service has general supervision of all ambulances. An ambulance can be obtained either through the patient's doctor or nurse or, in the event of an emergency, by asking the telephone operator for the ambulance station.

Summary (for reference) of Nursing Arrangements. Hospitals, and other Institutions available for the District.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

All district nurses come under the authority of the Lindsey County Council.

TUBERCULOSIS TREATMENT CENTRES.

Treatment and aftercare of tuberculosis cases are dealt with by the Regional Hospital Board. The nearest centres are at Brigg, Lincoln and Grimsby.

HOSPITAL, ISOLATION.

All cases of infectious diseases, including Smallpox, are dealt with by the Regional Hospital Board.

MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES.

These are controlled by the Lindsey County Council.

HEALTH VISITORS.

The Lindsey County Council is in charge of these.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

This is undertaken by the Lindsey County Council.

DENTAL CLINICS AND TREATMENTS.

This is arranged for mothers and children by the Lindsey County Council.

There is a Dental Clinic at Market Rasen.

School Clinics are held at Brigg and Market Rasen.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

This is supplied by the Lindsey County Council.

SECTION C.

Notifiable and Infectious Diseases.

None of the more serious infectious diseases was notified during the year, except for a continuing low number of tubercular cases.

The dysenteries were all of the very mild Sonne variety. The increase in the total notifications was due to fresh outbreaks of measles. The parishes which were most affected were Caistor, South Kelsey, Riby, Stainton-le-Vale (Binbrook R.A.F.) and Nettleton in which 145 cases were notified. Caistor had 68 cases out of this total. This was to be expected as this parish had not had many cases since 1955.

In my last report as Medical Officer of Health, I wish to again emphasise that notifications of certain diseases have but little relevance to the general health of the community. Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever, are two of these; while the notifications of the latter probably bear little real relation to the number of cases of tonsilitis which are due to the same organism. In the last 40 years the approach to many of the infectious diseases has completely altered. Terminal disinfection is exceptional now and a great amount of expense and time is saved. From experience one can see now that its effect in preventing the spread of most of the disease for which it was carried out was imaginary.

Pneumonia of the lobar variety appear to have almost disappeared to be replaced in the notifications to some extent by those due to viruses. Erysipelas has almost disappeared. Sonne dysentery (bacterial) and food poisoning occur in such mild forms at times that they are often not notified.

An epidemic of the former probably commenced amongst children attending Holton-le-Moor School in December but this was only discovered later when two children were found to have had Sonne Dysentery when their histories were examined. Of the 13 specimens of faeces examined nine were found to be positive for Sonne dysentery.

During the year no case of leptospirosis was brought to my attention. Brucellosis, or undulant fever, was also apparently not present. This disease of course is unlikely to be found where milk is pasteurised or sterilised. I think both of these diseases should be made notifiable. Only when this is done can the size of the problem be estimated and the necessary steps taken to control them.

The control of epidemics of influenza and of those of other virus diseases will offer many problems to future Medical Officers of Health.

It is obvious that the bacteriological laboratory will have to play a larger part in the control of many of these diseases.

Notifiable Diseases	1959	1958	Average	Average	Average
			for 1952-58	for 1942-51	for 1932-41
Measles	211	26	128.5	140	—*
Whooping Cough	22	21	67.8	43	—*
Scarlet Fever	18	36	23.7	25.6	20.2
Diphtheria	0	0	0	3.2	3.7
Pneumonia	2	7	6.1	6.4	7.3
Tuberculosis					
Pulmonary	4	6	4.9	7.4	8.7
Non.-Pulmonary	1	1	2.1	5.4	3.8
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	1.3	1.8	—*
Erysipelas	0	1	.9	3.5	3.2
Poliomyelitis					
Paralytic	0	6	1.3	.6	—
Non-Paralytic	0	2			

Ophthalmia					
Neonatorum	0	0	0	1.0	.6
Typhoid & Para-typhoid Fever	0	0	.4	.3	.7
Dysentery	5	0	2.1	1.8	—
Food Poisoning	2	6	1.7	0	—
Encephalitis					
Infective	0	1	.6	0	0
Malaria	0	0	.13	0	0
TOTALS	265	113	241.53	240	—

* Not notifiable.

Immunisation.

The County Medical Officer of Health has stated that 203 children received their initial immunisation against diphtheria during 1959. 161 were immunised against Whooping Cough, and 110 against tetanus. 147 of these injections were given in some joint form. Only 90 children received a booster dose against diphtheria. One child received a booster injection against tetanus. 122 children and adults were vaccinated against smallpox and there were 8 re-vaccinations.

No figures are as yet available for the number of vaccinations against poliomyelitis. The number in the Market Rasen and Caistor areas must now be considerable.

With the prospective employment of Sabins Vaccine, given by the mouth, the protection of the population against this disease will be considerably simplified.

SECTION D—Water Supply.

The bulk provision of water for the district is no longer under the control of the Rural District Council. The 33 new houses erected in various parishes all had piped water supplies installed. Apart from premises along the High Street, all except isolated houses, are connected or can be connected with the mains for the District. About 4150 out of 4336 houses are on a satisfactory water supply.

Samples.

Regular sampling of the water supply system was again carried out and the attached summary shows the results found. The various unsatisfactory reports were always investigated and, in every case, repeat samples showed an improvement or allowed the source of the pollution to be ascertained and dealt with. Samples for bacteriological examination were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Lincoln and chemical analyses were done by Northern Analysts Ltd., Hull.

Bacteriological examinations

Source	Satisfactory	Un-Satisfactory	Total
Caistor	25	—	25
Nettleton	30	6	36
Otby	38	6	44
Tealby	21	2	23

Supplies from other Authorities		Un		Total
		Satisfactory	Satisfactory	
Grimsby	...	23	1	24
Welton	...	1	—	1
Louth	...	2	—	2
Private Supplies	...	29	73	102
TOTALS	...	169	88	257

The chemical analyses for the supply are as follows :—

	SOURCES		
	Nettleton	Otby	Tealby
Total Solids	276.0	336.0	368.0
Free Carbon Dioxide	8.4	7.3	13.8
Free Ammonia as N	0.015	0.010	0.005
Albumenoid Ammonia as N	0.030	0.010	0.008
Nitrates as N	Nil	Nil	Nil
Nitrites as N	3.0	3.0	3.2
Chlorides as Cl	19.0	19.0	22.0
Alkalinity expressed as CaCO ₃	160.0	205.0	220.0
Permanganate figure (N/80 4 hours)	0.128	0.120	0.100
Calcium as Ca	83.0	106.0	111.0
Magnesium as Mg	1.8	1.4	1.6
Sodium as Na	17.5	17.3	19.5
Carbonates as CO ₃	96.0	123.0	132.0
Sulphates as SO ₄	52.0	59.7	61.0
Nitrates as NO ₃	13.3	13.3	14.2
pH Value	7.2	7.3	7.3

**Domestic Premises connected to mains water at December 31st
1959**

PARISH	No. of houses	No. sup.	PARISH	No. of houses	No. sup.
Bigby	81	75	Osgodby	162	159
Bishop Norton	115	112	Owersby	112	107
Brocklesby	58	52	Rasen, Middle	401	395
Buslingthorpe	28	26	Rasen, West	46	46
Cabourne	34	33	Riby	74	66
Caistor	584	576	†Rothwell	74	71
Claxby	63	63	†Searby-cum-Owmby	53	53
Glentham	110	106	Sixhills	29	26
Grasby	113	108	Snitterby	73	73
*Holton-le-Moor	60	58	Somerby	23	23
Keelby	305	295	†Stainton-le-Vale	40	34
Kelsey, North	280	272	†Swallow	74	74
Kelsey, South	167	162	†Swinhope	23	6
Kitmond-le-Mire	20	17	Tealby	195	184
Legsby	102	101	Thoresway	57	30
Limber	127	118	†Thorganby	30	30
Linwood	48	47	Toft Newton	39	39
Lissington	63	63	Waddingham	181	177
Nettleton	181	176	Walesby	77	58
Normanby-le-Wold	28	22	Willingham, North	47	42
				4377	4175

* Private supply only.

† Part Private Supply.

SECTION E

Sewerage and sewage disposal.

Towns and villages with complete sewerage schemes :—

- (1) Caistor—disposal by land treatment over 7 acres.
Standard of effluent—good.
- (2) Keelby—disposal to new sewage disposal works.
Standard of effluent—good.
- (3) Tealby—disposal to new sewage disposal works.
Standard of effluent—good.
- (4) Middle Rasen—disposal to sewage disposal works. Belonging to Market Rasen U.D.C., in Middle Rasen parish.
Standard of effluent—quite good.
- (5) Waddingham—the new sewage disposal works continued to function well and the pollution of the stream flowing through the village completely ceased.

Villages with partial sewerage schemes :—

- (1) North Kelsey—disposal by combined 'sewer' with land treatment in field of .652 acres. Discharge to dyke—effluent not good.
- (2) South Kelsey—North End—disposal by combined 'sewer' to twin settlement tanks. Discharge of effluent therefrom to dyke.
- (3) South Kelsey—South End. New sewage disposal works with complete treatment—built in conjunction with new Council housing estate. Effluent good.

Drainage problems from polluted dykes continued to arise and the Council's system of annual cleansing of dykes by contract was again helpful in reducing serious nuisance.

The total length of 123½ chains was cleansed during 1959 at a cost of £84. Improvements to school drainage schemes continued and, by the end of the year, most schools in the area had flush lavatories.

The Council considered the Caistor and Nettleton sewerage scheme on several occasions and progress was such that the scheme is likely to be commenced in October, 1960.

14 Sewer swabs were used as follows :—

Inlets and outlets to sewage works.

None of these showed any trace of organisms of the enteric, dysentery or *Salmonella* groups.

Chemical Samples of Sewage were taken as follows :—

		parts per million		
	Caistor	Keelby	Tealby	Waddingham
Consisting of				
Loss on Ignition	170.0	300.0	274.0	550.0
and Mineral matter	400.0	630.0	428.0	760.0
Total Solids	570.0	930.0	702.0	1310.0
Free Ammonia as N.	2.5	5.0	30.0	8.0
Albumenoid Ammonia as N	2.0	5.0	2.2	3.6
Nitrates as N	4.5	12.0	Nil	3.5
Nitrates as N	1.5	3.0	Nil	2.5
Chlorides as Cl	55.0	102.0	73.0	76.0
Alkalinity expressed as CaCO ₃	277.0	220.0	425.0	573.0
Total Sulphur as S	23.3	28.8	39.7	43.8
Unoxidised Sulphur as S	Nil	4.1	15.1	4.1
Sulphates as S	23.3	24.7		39.7
Permanganate figure (N/80, 3 minutes)	2.07	7.00	9.80	9.80
(N/80, 4 hours)	3.38	14.20	23.30	24.54
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (dilution 18 to 1)	6.00	14.00	89.0	48.0
Solids in Suspension consisting of Loss on Ignition and Mineral Matter	10.0	12.0	68.0	22.0
pH Value	7.0	7.4	7.8	8.0
Strength of Sewage (calculated)	5.5	18.0	40	30.7

SECTION F

Public Health Nuisances.

No serious public health nuisance occurred during the year but the three items which were listed in the 1958 report recurred :—

- (a) a third fish lorry overturned and again discharged loose fish fillets over the road.
- (b) continued complaints of fish juice on the highway were received.
- (c) complaints as to the condition of some of the dykes near villages continued.

SECTION G

Housing.

With 33 new houses erected as against the closing or demolition of 14, the gradual re-housing of a stationary population can be regarded as satisfactory.

The number of improvement grants made was 94 and this has also helped considerably in raising the standards of housing in many older buildings.

An inspection of many of the older cottages has led to a considerable list being prepared of houses for demolition.

In principle the Council have agreed to the provision of some sub-standard houses adequate for the needs of some of the problem families in the Rural District.

SECTION H

Health and Welfare of Schoolchildren.

The general health of children attending both the primary and secondary schools has undergone a considerable improvement over the last 20 years. In one respect, however, this is not true. Dental caries has continued to increase as evidenced by the number of carious teeth noted and the smaller percentage of children seen with perfect sets of teeth.

Skin diseases of an infectious or contagious nature have become quite uncommon. Bronchitis remains one of the commonest complaints to be found in the schools and to be treated at the School Clinic.

Otitis media, or its sequelae, are still present but are not seen so frequently as during the war years. Defective vision is the commonest condition requiring treatment. Nocturnal enuresis or bedwetting remains one of the more difficult conditions to deal with. It is fairly common in younger school children and is often found to be associated with some nervous condition such as the first introduction to school life.

The standards of hygiene in the children vary considerably from school to school. In many of the smaller primary schools an inspection of the hands before meals is a routine procedure. This could well be carried out in all schools. Dirty hands are implicated in so many of our present day infections, as an example Poliomyelitis is probably one of these.

In many schools the condition of the school toilets or lavatories left much to be desired. Regular frequent inspection of these should be made—either by prefects appointed for the job—or by teachers themselves. One of the interesting features I have noted is that the older girls tend to adopt the wearing of high heeled shoes while still at school. Earrings and painted toe nails are not uncommon. I believe it is seldom realised that many of these older girls are virtually past the adolescent stage and regard themselves as mature women and often act as such. A smaller proportion of the older boys may be said to come in this category.

All children appear to reach maturity at a much younger age than they did 40 years ago when I first commenced my school medical career.

It is obvious that this sets many more problems for the teacher in all Secondary Schools. It is unfortunate, in this respect, that the inculcation of rules with regard to sexual behaviour is seldom hinted at in the curriculum. I think this whole subject will need to be tackled in conjunction with the teaching of nature study and biology. Each generation probably has its own problems but in the present acquisitive and relatively prosperous society I believe these are becoming more acute.

25 children attending schools in the Rural District were examined because of a subnormal mental ability. 16 of these were considered to be in need of special schooling while 4 were recorded as ineducable at Special Schools and were recommended for attendance at Occupation Centres.

In the last 13 years I have been called upon to make 833 of these examinations. Mental deficiency of varying degrees is fairly common but it is only when it is allied with problems of irrational behaviour that it becomes a serious matter. Assimilation into the community life is often an insoluble problem in these cases.

SECTION I

Climate.

1959 was probably one of the driest and sunniest years experienced in Caistor for many years.

The total rainfall of 18.88 inches was well below the average. Only 4.36 inches were recorded from May to September inclusive. In both February and September exceptionally low rainfalls were recorded.

The total number of days, on which rain fell from May to September, was 30. In February and September rain fell only on two days in each month. In May rain fell on three days only. Fortunately the rainfall in June and July was reasonably adequate.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

To the CAISTOR RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL :

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The duties of Public Health Inspector and Surveyor seem each year to become more complex and to require work to be done rather than allowing it to be planned in an orderly sequence. The requirements of public health have always been to a certain extent unpredictable for there may be matters which require urgent attention, but the general day-to-day work of the department needs staff who are interested in their work and in the well-being of the inhabitants of the area. I feel I can reasonably claim that Caistor Rural District is fortunate in this respect—there is plenty of interesting, productive work to be done and the details in this report will show that most of this work has been of benefit to the community that we serve.

I would like to express my thanks to the Councillors for all the interest and help they have shown in the work of my department and I would particularly thank the Chairmen of the Public Health and Housing Committees. An active, interested Chairman is a great help in getting appreciation of the problems involved. I would also like to thank the Clerk and his staff, the Medical Officer and the public health staff generally, for their willing co-operation throughout the year.

During 1959 Caistor Rural District Council ceased to be the water authority and this meant the transfer of Mr. H. Dixon to the newly formed North East Lincolnshire Water Board. I should like the Council to know how valuable a colleague I found Mr. Dixon to be and that his knowledge of the Council's water undertaking and his enterprise in his work have been of great assistance to me during the past seven years.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

VINCENT G. HUDSON.

Town and Country Planning.

The Council continued to operate, as in previous years, delegated powers from the Lindsey County Council under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947. During the year 337 planning proposals were received and dealt with. The relationship between this Council and the County Planning Officer was at all times most cordial and no unnecessary delay occurred in arriving at a decision.

Of the 337 plans, 16 were refused and 5 withdrawn. 15 were refused on planning grounds only; 1 for the erection of 2 deep litter houses, 4 for the erection of filling stations, 5 housing sites, 3 for the display of signs, 1 for showroom and repair shop, and one for the use of existing building as a slaughterhouse, the 16th plan, which was refused on byelaw grounds only was for the erection of a pre-fab.

There were 3 appeals—all of which were dismissed.

Housing and Building Development.

General—plans for the erection of 30 houses and bungalows were received; at the end of the year 9 were under construction.

No Council houses were built during 1959 but the Council's policy of building bungalows resulted in the construction of 15 additional Council dwellings. The building of bungalows was a wise move for it also resulted in better use of Council houses; wherever possible transfers from Council houses to bungalows were arranged.

The Council converted the old Police cells into a bungalow with living room, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom together with central heating in the bedroom.

New Houses.

	P.E.	Average per Year	
		Cl.	P.E.
1930-39 (10 years)	247	80	25
1939-45 (6 years)	—	30	—
1945-59 (14 years)	214	388	15
 Totals (30 years)	461	498	
Averages for 30 years			15 17

The houses built (and completed) in 1959 were in the following parishes :—

	Caistor R.D.C.	Private Enterprise
Caistor	5	1
Glentham	2	—
Keelby	—	5
North Kelsey	—	2
South Kelsey	—	2
Middle Rasen	2	1
Nettleton	—	1
Osgodby	—	1
Riby	—	1
Snitterby	—	1
Swallow	—	1
Tealby	—	1
Waddingham	6	1
Walesby	—	—
	15	19

Caravans.

The number of caravans licensed and used for individual residential occupation increased slightly during the year but the reduction in the number of vans on the one licensed site resulted in the total being only slightly higher than in the previous year.

All the caravans and sites were inspected from time to time and conditions were satisfactory. The annual licence for the individual caravans was found to be most effective in controlling conditions. The total number of persons living in caravans in the area does not exceed 150 and, in consequence, little or no public health problem arises from the use of caravans.

Number of individual Caravan Licences—30.

TABLE OF PLANS APPROVED DURING THE YEAR 1959
with corresponding details for 1955-58

Type of Building	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
1. Council Houses	7	—	12	4	3
2. Private Houses	14	26	23	24	30
3. Additions and Alterations to Houses	65	68	105	84	77
4. Conversions to Houses	6	5	2	1	—
5. Farm Buildings	4	5	3	8	12
6. Factories (including alterations and additions)	—	2	1	2	9
7. Temporary Buildings	—	—	—	3	1
8. Licensed Premises (alterations and additions)	3	2	1	4	—
9. Shops (including alterations and additions)	—	4	—	1	1
10. Petrol Stations & Garages	6	6	3	1	3
11. Local Authority (sewers and water schemes)	3	2	2	1	2
12. Statutory Undertakings (Electricity Board etc.)	57	24	46	66	62
13. Private Garages	42	38	35	46	48
14. Mineral Workings	2	3	—	3	4
15. Advertisements	6	7	—	4	6
16. Bus Shelters	—	1	—	1	—
17. Store Sheds	3	5	8	6	3
18. Cafe and additions	2	—	1	1	3
19. School	1	1	—	1	3
20. Deep Litter Houses	—	1	3	2	1
21. Caravan Sites & Caravans	1	—	—	—	2
22. Playing Fields	1	—	1	—	2
23. New Business Premises and Alterations	15	—	1	1	9
24. Burial Grounds	2	3	2	1	1
25. Alterations to and additional accesses	—	—	—	6	4
26. Housing Sites	—	—	—	11	28
27. Church and Church Buildings	—	—	—	2	2
28. Withdrawals	—	—	—	8	5
29. Refusals	—	—	—	4	16
TOTALS	240	203	249	296	337
	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959

COUNCIL DWELLINGS—Number in each Parish.

Parish	Total	War- Pre-War	Post- time	Total	Being built	No of current applicants
Bigby	—	—	8	8	—	8
Bishop Norton	—	2	8	10	—	11
Brocklesby	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buslingthorpe	4	—	2	6	—	2
Cabourne	—	—	2	2	—	1
Caistor	36	4	64†*	104	—	77
Claxby	—	—	6	6	—	7
Glenham	—	2	10	12	—	11
Grasby	4	—	4	8	—	9
Holton-le-Moor	—	—	4	4	—	5
Keelby	18	2	34	54	—	44
Kelsey, North	18	2	30	50	—	21
Kelsey, South	14	2	18	34	—	18
Kirmond-le-Mire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Legsby	2	2	10	14	—	11
Limber	8	—	12	20	—	19
Linwood	—	—	6	6	—	8
Lissington	—	—	4	4	—	5
Nettleton	14	—	24	38	—	33
Normanby-le-Wold	—	—	4	4	—	5
Osgodby	10	2	6	18	—	21
Owersby	6	4	10	20	—	14
Rasen, Middle	18	—	22	40	—	41
Rasen, West	—	2	2	4	—	9
Riby	—	—	4	4	—	17
Rothwell	—	4	22	26	—	11
Searby-cum-Owmby	—	—	6	6	—	8
Sixhills	—	—	2	2	—	2
Snitterby	4	—	8	12	—	10
Somerby	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stainton-le-Vale	—	—	2	2	—	1
Swallow	—	—	8	8	—	14
Swinhope	—	—	4	4	—	5
Tealby	—	—	12	12	—	17
Thoresway	—	—	—	—	—	2
Thorganby	—	—	—	—	—	—
Toft Newton	—	—	2	2	—	1
Waddingham	18	2	18	38	—	17
Walesby	—	—	6	6	—	6
Willingham, North	—	—	4	4	—	7
	174	30	388	592	—	498

Pre War 174 shown above are all houses.

War-time 30 shown above are all houses.

Post-War 388—Houses 297; Bungalows 91.

* includes 6 ex Private dwellings.

† includes ex Police Station converted into Bungalow.

The total number of applicants at the end of the year was 498 which represents an increase on 1958. The number of applicants represents approximately 5 for every six dwellings (7 for every 10 houses and 2 for each bungalow). These applications are renewed each year and it is thought that approximately 2/3rds of the list would accept a Council house if offered. In some of the rural parishes it is difficult to find tenants, e.g. 124 of the 347 house applicants are in respect of only four parishes and 94 of the 185 bungalow applicants have applied for the same 4 parishes.

Council Houses—General Remarks.

The standard rents of Council houses were as follows :—

Year to 31/3/60	Standard Rent per week	Rates per week
Type		
3 bed. all services	1/14/0	(Waddingham) 6/5 to 9/1 (Caistor)
3 bed. Other	1/8/0	(Snitterby) 4/6 to 8/8 (Caistor)
Agricultural houses (1944)	1/13/6	(Bishop Norton) 6/8 to 9/1 (Caistor)
Post-war—houses		
3 bed.	1/15/0	(Toft Newton) 5/11 to 9/6 (Caistor)
2 bed.	1/12/6	(Rothwell) 5/7 to 7/10 (Caistor)
Bungalows	1/10/6	(Rothwell) 4/6 to 6/2 (Caistor)

The rent rebate system continued to work very well and was not materially changed during the year. The rent rebate was on a graduated scale—those receiving £13 or over paid the full rent while those below £13 but above £8 had a rebate which, at its maximum, was 15/- a week. Tenants with a wage of £8 or less were eligible for the full rebate.

The Council continued to allocate £10-10-0 per year per dwelling for maintenance purposes. 113 houses and bungalows were painted by contract at a cost of £979-10-0, and 15 houses colour washed at a cost of £248-2-0.

Council House Improvements—Pre-war Houses.

All the Council houses now have water closets—the last 36 were provided therewith during 1959. This is, I feel, a real achievement for a rural area. All but 6 of the Council houses have a hot water system; in every case the lack of this amenity is at the expressed wish of the tenant concerned and whenever such a house becomes vacant the Council immediately provide it with modern amenities. By a system of replacement and exchange the stoves at 10 houses were renewed, mainly by the provision of all night burning, tiled surround fireplaces with back boilers.

Housing Acts—Improvement Grants.

The Council continued its policy of giving grants to properties to bring them up to a modern standard and by the end of 1959 grants for 490 houses had been approved. The total grant approved was, in round figures, £100,000 which is an average of £204 per house.

These 490 houses represent 11.25% of the houses in the area—this shows clearly how material an effect the Council's policy has had on the standard of houses in the Caistor Rural District. With the 598 Council houses and bungalows it means that a total of 1,088 dwellings out of 4,377 have been provided with facilities either partly or wholly at public expense. The provision or improvement of this 24.8% of the total houses in the area must have had a real effect in retaining the population in an entirely agricultural area.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

No certificates were issued under this Act during the year.

Summary of work under the Housing Act and Public Health Acts during 1959.

(a) Dwelling-house inspection	
(1) Total houses inspected for defects	768
(2) Number of inspections made for purpose	978
(3) Number of dwellings found to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	14
(4) Number of houses found defective but repairable	
(b) Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices	
(i) Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit as a result of informal action	8

Abatement of Nuisances.

Total number of nuisances investigated during year	23
Abated as a result of informal action by Public Health Inspector	20
Statutory Notices issued	3
Details of nuisances are as follows :—	
Refuse	—
Foul ditches and ponds and stagnant water	8
Drainage	5
Poultry and Animals	1
Dangerous Premises	3
Miscellaneous Nuisances	6
Total	23

Housing Survey.

768 houses were inspected in 21 parishes and this involved 978 visits.

A summary of the conditions found is set out below :

Parish	Houses Inspected	Categories		
		1 & 2	3	5
Bigby .	73	58	12	3
Bishop Norton	3	—	—	3
Brocklesby	61	53	5	3
Caistor	13	10	1	2
Grasby	100	87	4	9
Holton-le-Moor	1	—	—	1
Keelby	257	178	74	5
Kelsey, North	1	1	—	—
Legsby	1	—	—	1
Limber	100	80	12	8
Nettleton	3	—	—	3
Osgodby	3	—	—	3
Owersby	2	—	1	1
Rasen, Middle	5	—	1	4
Rasen, West	2	—	2	—
Riby	69	51	18	—
Searby-cum-Owmyby	47	38	7	2
Somerby	23	20	1	2
Stainton-le-Vale	1	1	—	—
Toft Newton	1	—	—	1
Waddingham	2	—	—	2
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Totals	<u>768</u>	<u>577</u>	<u>138</u>	<u>53</u>

In addition all the houses which had been the subject of a grant were inspected and were found to be satisfactory.

Milk Regulations.

Distributors on register :—

Sterilised Milk	15
Pasteurised	8
T.T.	5
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Total	28	<hr/>

**Meat Inspection
Unsound Food**

**Carcases inspected
and condemned**

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Sheep & Lambs	Calves	Pigs	Total
Number killed	339	9	1266	7	685	2306
Number Inspected	339	9	1266	7	685	2306
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcase condemned	—	2	13	1	5	21
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	12	—	6	1	8	27
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with disease other than tubercu- losis	3.54	22.2	1.5	28.6	1.9	
Tuberculosis only Whole carcase condemned	3	—	—	—	—	3
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	19	—	—	—	2	21
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.48	—	—	—	.292	
Cysticercosis. Carcases sub- mitted to treatment by refrigeration	4	—	—	—	—	4
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Meat Inspection.

The six slaughterhouses continued in use throughout the year. Meetings with the owners of the slaughterhouses, with members of the food trade, auctioneers and others interested took place and a full discussion on future policy resulted in the preparation and submission on 2.11.59 of the Slaughterhouse Report. The butchers agreed to bring their slaughterhouses up to standard by August, 1961 and plans showing what is intended have been submitted by four slaughterhouse owners. The fifth slaughterhouse is likely to be demolished by reason of a road improvement and in the sixth case the tenancy of the structure used as a slaughterhouse lapsed and, in fact, the building has now been demolished.

Food Premises.

A commencement of the survey of food premises showed that out of 41 inspected thirty eight were entirely satisfactory and 3 required improvement. The total number of food shops in the area, excluding public houses is 76.

A large scale establishment for the killing and processing of turkeys was the subject of numerous inspections; conditions at all times were found to be satisfactory.

The egg packing station was visited each week and conditions were generally satisfactory. The regular sampling continued and of the 91 samples taken, 33 were satisfactory and 58 unsatisfactory. This was on a basis of 100 coliform—25 faecal—5,000 plate counts.

This not entirely satisfactory picture had one major result —a continuing concern on the part of the management and staff to improve conditions so that the samples would become satisfactory.

Sound whole eggs, if broken out in entirely satisfactory conditions, produce nearly sterile samples but cracked eggs, sometimes dirty as well and maybe up to a week old, may start with a considerable bacterial count which no effort on the part of the staff can reduce. From the experience gained in this area it would seem that there is an unanswerable case for pasteurisation of home produced liquid eggs. Fortunately in no case were salmonellae or other serious organisms found.

Ice Cream.

53 premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream.

9 samples were taken as follows :—

Grade I	....	....	....	8
Grade II	....	....	....	1
Grade III	....	....	....	—
Grade IV	....	....	....	—
				—
				9

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

Number of factories on register :—

Power	....	....	....	70
Non-power	....	....	....	7
Inspections made	....	....	....	78

Sewerage.

The two men continued to be able to look after, with some minor assistance from time to time, the four major schemes and the forty six minor sewage works in the area. The standard of maintenance was good and co-operation with the Lincolnshire River Board extended to giving them a key to all the sewage works in the area so that their officers could inspect for themselves whenever they wished. No serious complaint was received in respect of any of the works.

Drainage.

The Council continued to give grants under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936 and during 1959 the following applications were approved :—

	Total Cost
38 connections to sewers at £5	£190
42 connections to Septic Tank at £10	£420
Total	£610

Water Supply.

The North East Lincolnshire Water Board was formed and took over the administration of the Caistor water supply system on 1st April, 1959. The Council were sorry to lose control over such a well organised system of local water supply, but, in fact, co-operation between the new Board and this Council has been so complete that most of the anticipated difficulties did not arise.

Water samples continued to be taken from the mains on a joint basis and the result was that both this Council and the Board were always up-to-date in knowledge of the bacteriological condition of the supply. The raw waters varied in condition but the chlorinated supplies were always satisfactory.

Private supplies. 111 samples were taken of which 56 were satisfactory. The unsatisfactory ones were mainly from the Nettleton mine area or from the Holton-le-Moor supply; both sources were liable to fluctuate in amount and purity but at no time did the pollution persist for more than a week or two. A small number of private springs, such as Pigeon Spring, Caistor, are still in use; a belief still exists that spring water, direct from a natural source, is better than the piped supply. Regular sampling does not support this theory!

Public Scavenging.

The Council continued to collect refuse fortnightly from all parishes and weekly from the parishes of Caistor, Stainton-le-Vale and Toft Newton. The bins are collected from the place of use and returned thereto. The system worked well and there were no serious delays. Disposal was in old pits, quarries and natural depressions and gave rise to no serious nuisance. The Council hired a bulldozer on several occasions and the condition and general contours of the tips were greatly improved by its use.

Nightsoil is collected from 850 premises each week; this figure is reducing each year as further sewerage schemes and more improvement and conversions are done. The contents of the buckets are partly composted and partly disposed of on arable land—a record of the source of each load and its place of disposal is kept. An increasing number of treatment tanks are being emptied and in 1959, 223 tanks were emptied. mainly at a cost of £1 each.

The Council authorised the purchase of three new vehicles in 1960—two fore and aft loaders for dry refuse and an eight hundred gallon cesspool emptier.

Rodent Control.

The Council continue to employ a full-time rodent operator. He works entirely in the Caistor Rural District except for doing such work as is required in the Market Rasen Urban District. His main function is survey although some work on domestic premises (done without charge) and business premises (cost plus 15%) is carried out. There were no major infestations of rats or mice. The figures for inspection and treatments for 1959 were :—

Dwelling Houses	.....	.....	1357
Business Premises	.....	.....	24

The number of voles (*arvicola amphibius*) in the area appears to have reduced very rapidly and there are now very few complaints of presence or damage by these rodents. There is now little or no evidence of their living away from watercourses and they seem to have reverted to their original numbers and habitations. One vole caught was suspected of being a carrier of actinomycosis but this was not confirmed in later voles examined.

Nettleton—extension of iron ore mining operation.

Following the Inquiry in December 1958 work on the authorised extension of the mining area was commenced and a large further scheme of extraction of iron ore has started. Most of the new area is below ground level and the ore will be mined. Reinstatement of the earlier opencast working has proceeded apace and now many of the original scars have been re-surfaced and re-seeded.

Public Conveniences, Caistor.

The plans for this were approved by the Council and prices are being invited for its erection. It will include a bus shelter which is being built in co-operation with the Parish Council.

Staff.

Mr. R. J. Lewis was appointed Public Health Inspector and Assistant Surveyor and commenced work on 22nd June, 1959. Mr. R. Garrood left this Council after three years as pupil Public Health Inspector—he went to continue his pupillage with the Manchester Corporation.

Petroleum Installations.

The work of inspecting all petroleum installations in the area was completed. Notices were served on the various owners requiring work to be done to conform with the new regulations. The visits were made jointly with an officer of the Lindsey Fire Brigade.

Public Health Nuisance.

A third load of fish—reject fish for animal feeding stuffs and for fertilizers—crashed in the Caistor Rural District on 27th May, 1959. The eight tons were spread over the base of Caistor byepass and the adjoining field. Following earlier experience of this type of nuisance the removal of the load was speeded up so that 24 hours later only slight evidence of the nuisance existed.

A constant recurring nuisance was caused by the discharge of fish juice on the highway. This particularly affected the roads near junctions and level crossings and caused a serious public health nuisance in hot weather.

Dangerous Buildings.

The Council required the re-building of a structure on the roadside at North Owersby on the grounds of its being a danger to road users.

J. H. EYRE, PRINTER, MARKET RASEN